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This particular material has many advantages over the various relief materials ordinarily supplied to decorators. Capable of infinite variations, it can at any time be reduced to a perfect state of pliability by being placed for a few hours between damp cloths or burlaps, and the ornament can then be wound around pillars as easily as attached to a flat surface, and is thus as adaptable for the decoration of

The manufacturers are issuing a new catalogue for the trade, containing about thirty-five plates, one of which we reproduce, the various borders shown being suitable for friezes, bands, borders, extensions, circles, ovals, etc., on walls and ceilings. Nothing so artistic, both in design and sharpness of detail, has yet been produced in this country, and we propose to reproduce a number of these plates, feeling sure that they will be a benefit to our subscribers. A visit to the factory of Messrs. James T. Hall & Co., Nos. 131 and 133 West Eighteenth Street, New York, will well repay anyone who has occasion to use relief decoration.

#### THE LONG ISLAND WALL PAPER CO.

IT has been our custom from time to time to make selections of wall paper patterns from our leading manufacturers which we considered as eminently suitable for the decoration of given apartments, and, in pursuance of this idea, we reproduce herewith a very elegant fleur-de-lis motive arranged as wall-filler, blended frieze and ceiling. The arrangement of the motive in these three divisions is eminently suitable, and the design is produced in a range of beautiful colors in harmony with the delicate use of pigments for which decoration is at present noted. The grounds of the friezes in all cases are blending of the color of the wall paper into that of the ceiling, so as to secure harmony of effect. This method of treatment is extremely popular at present, and is one of the happiest ideas ever introduced in wall paper. In view of the production of such patterns as these we are not astonished at the great success of the Long Island Wall Paper Co.'s present season's output, and the firm certainly stands in the front rank of American wall paper manufacturers.

#### GEORGE HALBERT, DECORATOR.

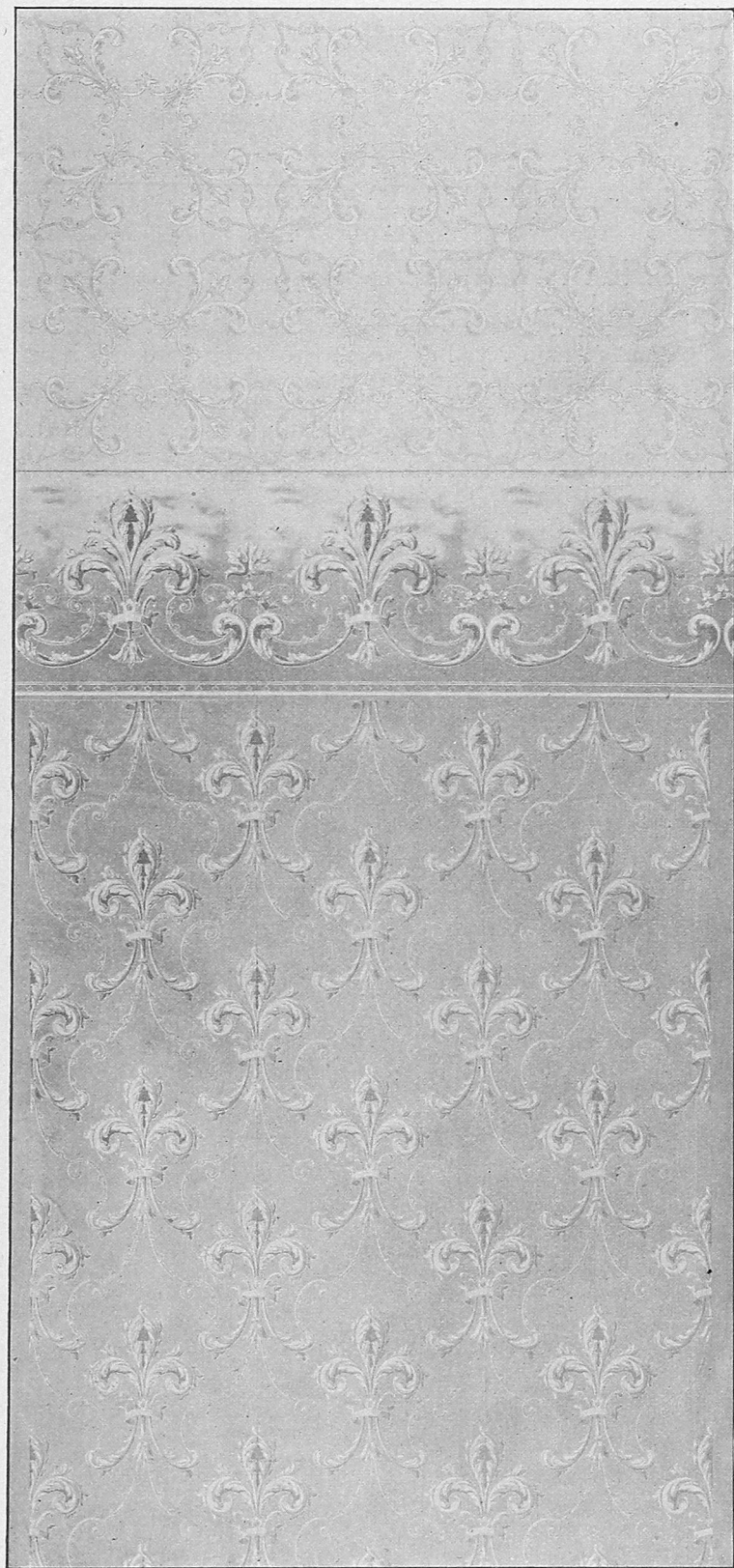


EW men have exerted a more beneficent influence on the art of interior decoration in this country than Mr. George Halbert, the Brooklyn decorator. Whether we consider him as the Wall-Paper Manufacturer, as the manufacturer of Appliqué Relief from mural decoration or simply as a decorator, we recognize the fact that his work possesses rare artistic

merit and that his success is based upon a strong personality that directs its execution.

Mr. George Halbert was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1843. His portrait, which appears on this page, represents a man full of ambition and confidence, and the caution and tenacity which are prominent elements of the Scotch character are unmistakably represented in his features. He comes of a family of decorators, his grandfather and uncle having been specially engaged in the business in the Scottish metropolis. With them he learned the business, coming to the United States in 1867 to prosecute his chosen calling. Two years later, in 1869, he began business on his own account in Brooklyn, N. Y. His first establishment was located in Pineapple Street, where he remained eight years. By this time the little establishment was too small for his rapidly-expanding business, and in consequence he removed to No. 226 Fulton Street. Here for sixteen years Mr. Halbert conducted a rapidly-developing business. Some six years ago Mr. Halbert bought the property at 455 and 455 Fulton Street, Brooklyn, and remodeled it into a decorative establishment, few equals of which are to be found in the country. It is beautifully appointed and is of itself a strong recommendation of his artistic taste. About this time Mr. Halbert's brother, Mr. William Halbert, was taken into partnership, the style of the firm remaining George Halbert, as formerly. Year by year the list of customers grew larger and the decorative schemes intrusted the firm became of greater magnitude, until it has had for several years past the largest decorative business in Brooklyn.

Brooklyn is pre-eminently the city of homes, and its inhabitants are characterized by a large degree of culture and



CROWN DESIGN No. 326. BY THE LONG ISLAND WALL PAPER CO.

coved or curved surfaces as for use upon a smooth frieze. It need not be pasted or glued in position, but may be tacked up with wire nails. The various ornaments, wreaths, festoons, borders, etc., are made without a background, which greatly facilitates the work of the decorator, as no trimming is required and the edges are clear and sharp. Moreover, its pliability allows expansion or contraction in spacing repeats.

social life. Many of its citizens own their own homes, and are therefore inclined to spend more money and labor upon their decoration than is spent on houses that are simply rented; consequently there is a demand for a more artistic and more permanent style of decoration, in a ward, of a freehold, rather than a leasehold style of art. In this way Mr. Halbert has had greater opportunities of responding to the decorative requirements of an educated and social community.

#### WALL-PAPER MANUFACTURER.

During the years in which Mr. Halbert did business simply as a decorator he conceived the idea of becoming some day a manufacturer of decorations rather than solely a purchaser and applier of same, for his experience qualified him to enter upon the manufacture of wall-paper with the assurance of certain success. He was in a position to know what style of wall-paper was best suited to the average customer, what effects were most popular, and, deciding to avoid the manufacture of cheap goods, he determined to try an experiment. He set up a printing machine in a factory located in Nos. 16 to 32 Division Avenue, Brooklyn, and began the manufacture of a line of high-class designs, embracing flats decorated, ingrains, silks, damasks, chintzes, and embossed gilt paper. The goods were not brought out haphazard, but were made according to conditions and requirements. Men of taste in retail circles recognized in them chaste decorative schemes and embodiments of ideas conspicuous by their absence in most lines of wall-paper. The manufacture of hand-made goods was also entered upon with four hand presses, and in a very short time a second printing machine was purchased to help in the production of the only line ever known to have taken a leading place on its appearance. Its first product was a business as well as an artistic success.

This present year's line is the second season for this young factory, and the success of the pattern prepared for the trade has been so pronounced that Mr. Halbert has found it necessary to add three new wall paper machines to his plant. The secret of his success is the evident purpose to lead, not follow, in the character of styles and products. Our manufacturer proposes to still further extend his business in the direction of all that is artistic, bright and progressive in the manufacture of wall paper, rather than secure a reputation of a large output of goods.

#### MANUFACTURER OF FRENCH APPLIQUÉ RELIEF.

But Mr. Halbert's ambition as a manufacturer does not begin and end with wall paper, for in fact for several years prior to their manufacture he had already established a factory for the manufacture of his now justly celebrated French Appliqué Relief, a form of plaster relief made specially on canvas for decorators everywhere. It was some five years ago, while traveling in Europe, that Mr. Halbert saw some ideas in Paris that gave a definite turn to his plans. At first the material was made solely for his own retail business, out of which it naturally grew in harmony with the decorative

needs of modern wall decorations; but in time its fame got abroad and decorators in other cities began to inquire about it. So numerous did these inquiries become that Mr. Halbert decided to enlarge his output and manufacture for the wholesale trade.

In manufacturing this graceful decorative material, Mr. Halbert has brought to bear his own practical experience as a decorator. Lightness and grace are distinct features of the material, and festoons and wreaths form a very important and pleasing feature thereof. There is exhibited the sensuous love of the beautiful joined to a delicacy of line that avoids everything in the nature of a surfeit of decoration, which is peculiarly applicable to the decoration of panels, frieze and ceiling decorations.

The Appliqué Relief consists of plaster of Paris which is brushed over the mould containing the decorative motive,

and while the material is still in a liquid state a thin canvas is pressed thereon and the compound of canvas and plaster when removed from the mould is ready for application to wall or ceiling. Apart from beauty of design, it will be seen that the material is of great practical utility, for any ordinary paper-hanger can apply the relief to the wall surface after the manner of pressed paper, and it is then finished in colors or bronze, according to the contemplated scheme of color decoration. The relief when once placed in position gives all the effect of hand-modeled plaster, and the local decorator himself gets credit for the work.

The designs executed at present are strictly in accordance with the decorative ideas of the hour, these being in Rococo, Louis XV., Louis XVI., Empire, or Renaissance styles, the method of producing the material lending itself to an endless variety of motives. The most intricate of geometric designs in which Saracenic art revels can be produced as easily as the most delicate tracery.

#### READY-MADE COLOR DESIGNS.

When the Appliqué Relief was first offered to the trade, Mr. Halbert at the same time introduced in a wholesale way a plan of his own that

should assist the decorator in determining the most details of a decorative scheme in which the Relief was a factor. This consists of a series of artistic color sketches, each exhibiting a section of wall features and ceiling, showing in a reduced scale the exact position and coloring of the appliqué decoration, each sketch being perfect in detail and of great help to the decorator. These have sold largely and have been of such practical assistance that the decorators unite in declaring these sketches the finest ever offered to the trade. Decorators in every city, who have elaborate work on hand, are continually asking the assistance of such widespread experience as is possessed by this house. Every mail brings orders for such sketches, as well as for the material wherewith to carry them out. Most of the designs are completed with plastic relief in the form of frieze and ceiling decorations, the finish being a gradation of color tone from the wall to the centre of the ceiling. In some schemes the wall space is covered with an artistic wall-paper, and this allows a wider artistic expression. Decorators frequently



GEORGE HALBERT.



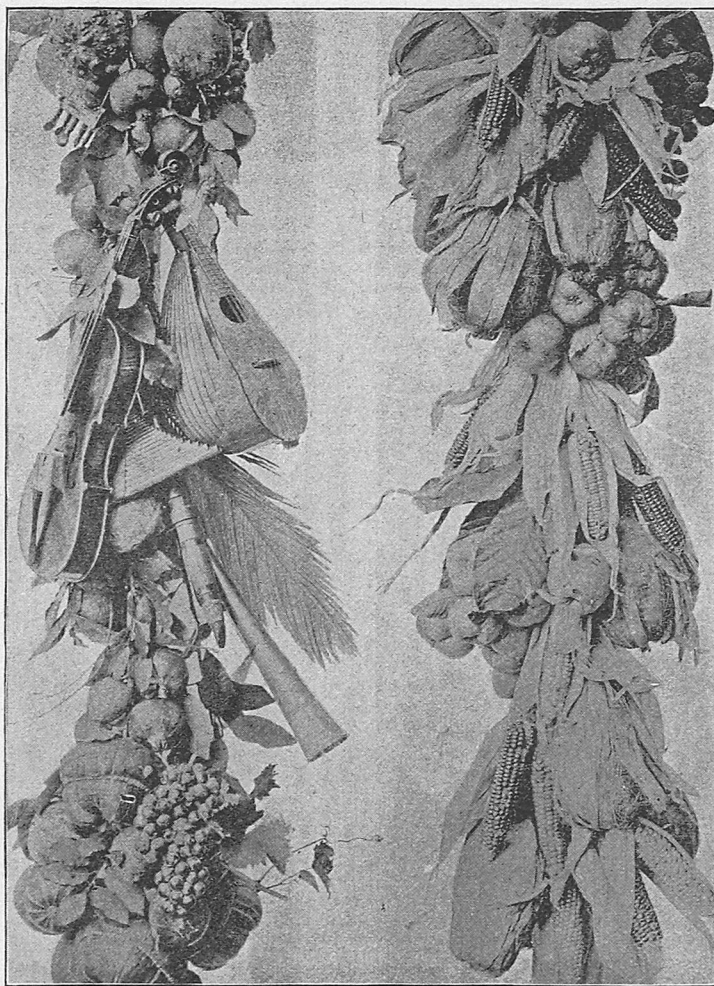
send Mr. Halbert plans for houses they are decorating, with an order to prepare his Appliqué Relief in sections suitable for the decoration of the various apartments, and, having the entire decoration of a dwelling thus in hand, our readers can with difficulty conceive an adequate idea of the opulence of the many schemes thus employed, which are calculated not only to give lasting credit to the local decorator, but at the same time develop the tastes of the people as well. Under the guidance of such a powerful agency, decorators throughout the country are finding more abundant employment for their energies. So fertile and far-reaching in its effects is this great emporium of practical decoration that its triumphant success was a foregone conclusion.

In these three branches on industrial art, namely, wall-paper, appliqué relief and color sketches, the house of Halbert has made a most excellent reputation, and the determination is to still further extend its reputation and increase the occasion for it.

Mr. Halbert has been successful in gathering about him a corps of lieutenants who are in thorough accord with his progressive ideas and assist materially in carrying them out. Wm. Halbert, the junior member of the house, has been a partner for two years, and has been associated with his brother for twenty-one years. He began his decorative career when a boy, has learned all the details of the business, and is now manager of his firm's retail establishment, a position that he is especially fitted to fill.

Of the firm's three traveling men, Mr. James M. Sinnott and Mr. George W. Hanbury have each been with Mr. Halbert for fourteen years, and Mr. M. B. Wightman for seven years. They have a thorough first-class retail experience, the best preparation for selling fine wall-papers at wholesale. Their success has been due in part to their own energy and courtesy, and in part to the excellence of the goods they have had for sale.

It is Mr. Halbert's ambition to elevate the art of modern decoration with materials having the widest vogue and the greatest technical beauty.



DECORATIVE APPLICATION OF NATURAL OBJECTS. BY M. MARTIN GERLACH.

### AN INTERESTING FRIEZE.

BY M. MUCHMORE.



FROM all parts of the world come the motives that form an interesting frieze in the music-room of a well-known collector in one of the cities of the West. The room, a long, high-ceiled affair, ending in a wide bow window, has its side walls done in pumpkin yellow, a beautiful golden tint, shading up through the frieze and ceiling until it fades into a warm cream tint in the centre. Against the frieze, which is about three feet in depth, is hung an untold number of quaint and curious old instruments, arranged always with an eye for artistic effect. Fully a hundred more equally interesting instruments are grouped about the under walls, or here and there a rare find hangs suspended by silken cords from the ceiling; around the door and window lintels cluster strange string instruments or un-

usual conceits in the way of drums, and strung across the picture frames are all sorts of queer sound producers.

For in this room is to be found the largest private collection of musical instruments in the country, embracing, as it does, nearly every one known to ancient or modern, from the "cheng" of China to the "nanga" of the Soudan; from the "sarungda" of India to the rattle of the Pueblos; from the "kissar" of early Egypt to the "suong" of Burmah.

The breath of the Orient which speaks from the untold treasures of this unique music-room is furthered by other touches of the Orient suggested by its furnishings. A divan in one corner covered with tawny tiger skins, warm yellow gauze at the windows and portières from the Indias of deep yellow embroidered in gold, carry out the tonic thought of the walls, against which the browns of the instruments tell out with delightful effect. And the talented mistress of this rarely beautiful home is so consistently gifted of idea that not a picture or book has found a lurking-place in this room which does not pertain to "music, heavenly muse."

### DECORATIVE NOTES.

THE entrance hall should first of all suggest warmth and welcome, yet how often do we see it precisely the opposite. How it makes one shiver to go into one of these dismal tunnel-like apartments to be found in many of our urban houses, particularly in the older sections of the city, which are frequently carpetless, rugless, with such light as finds its way in there absorbed in the dark, depressing coloring of the walls. Why rob the place of all cheerfulness? One does not want dark greens and blues here—rather let us have brightness and sunshine, and that is possible by adopting a warm scale of coloring. In such places by all means have yellows and golden russets on the walls. Indian yellow and white will light up a dark hall wonderfully.

THE age has past for small tables so laden down with bric-à-brac as to give the drawing-room much the appearance of a china shop, and to cause the average male

caller to feel very much in the position of the historical bull. Bits of bric-à-brac may still exist, but these bits must be of some intrinsic value and need not be grouped together as though offered for sale. The souvenir silver table will still hold sway, as this collection is really interesting in many cases, especially so when they represent the hostess' own "trip across," and the rich plush or velvet on which these ornaments are placed makes them a thing of beauty as a rule.

UNDER British rule, convict labor in the jails of India is actively employed in the production of an inferior grade of carpets, in response to the demands of private firms. The patterns are usually copies of the finer antique carpets, and the work in general is tawdry and is intended to be sold in the cheap bazars. Many of these prison-made carpets, as well as those manufactured by free labor, find their way into foreign countries, Europe and the United States being the principal consumers of Oriental carpets, whether of Turkish, Indian or Persian manufacture.